Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Sexual assault affects every person in South Dakota either as a victim/survivor of sexual assault or as a family member, significant other, friend, neighbor, or co-worker; and,

Whereas, This year's theme: "Renewing Our Mission," personifies our commitment to serving sexual assault survivors by acknowledging, invigorating, and rededicating ourselves to the goal of eliminating sexual assault; and,

Whereas, Many citizens of our great state are working to provide quality services and assistance to sexual assault survivors, through staffing 24-hour hotlines, responding to emergency calls, and offering support, comfort, and advocacy during the initial reports to law enforcement, medical exams, and criminal justice proceedings; and,

Whereas, Volunteers, paid professionals, and community allies are working tireless to promote sexual assault awareness by offering educational programs to schools, churches, and civic organizations, as well as professional training to medical, mental health, law enforcement, education, and criminal justice personnel regarding sexual assault issues; and,

Whereas, Numerous domestic and sexual assault programs and other advocates of non-violence have joined together to support each other in our work and to provide the citizens of local communities and the state of South Dakota with a central source of information on sexual assault; and,

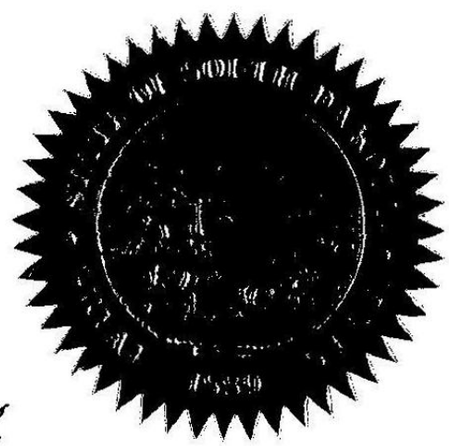
Whereas, During the month of April, efforts will be intensified to promote public understanding of sexual violence and increase sensitivity to victims emphasizing the need for citizen involvement in efforts to reduce sexual assault through public education and changing public attitudes; and,

Whereas, Local victim service agencies throughout the state will also be working to publicize their services, increase community support for their agency and increasing awareness of the healing potential for survivors:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim April 2004, as

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this First Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State